

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 6 JULY 2003

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications network of the South African Radio League and provides emergency communication to local, regional and national authorities, when requested to do so.

THIS BULLETIN WAS COMPILED AND PREPARED BY FRANCOIS BOTHA - ZS6BUU.

IN THE BULLETIN TODAY:-

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY SASAR CONVENTION - RESOLUTIONS AROUND THE WORLD - EVENTS AND DISASTERS

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN - Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070MHz

National Bulletin at 17H00 local on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz, but currently being read at 16H30 due to propagation problems in winter.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Gauteng North on Tuesdays at 20:30. The frequencies are 145,725MHz and either on 7,070MHz in the 40M band or 3,695MHz in the 80M band.

Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET Bulletin is sent to all those of whom I have an e-mail address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX.

SEARCH & RESCUE CONVENTION - FEEDBACK

At the end of September last year, I attended a Search & Rescue Convention in Somerset West. The report on this Consultative Conference has now been published and I would like to share some of the resolutions taken at that meeting, with you.

The list of people who attended really read like a who's who from every aspect and division of any organisation that could in any way be involved in or who would make use of various Emergency Services.

Various papers were delivered. After every paper, a question and answer session took place. What follows, are some of the resolutions taken and published for implementation to try and prevent similar situations from arising in future. Many relate specifically to Hamnet as providers of emergency communications in times of emergencies.

Many of the resolutions published were as a direct result of some papers that were presented. As an example, the helicopter that disappeared on a flight from the Limpopo Province to the Plettenberg Bay area on the 5th of March 1999; it was decided that any aircraft taking off from any airfield anywhere in South Africa, and going on a flight longer than 50 nautical miles, a flight plan must be logged. Especially when the flight path is over densely forested areas or mountainous regions. Should the flight disappear, it will be far easier to plan a search area.

It was also resolved that aircraft serviceability be checked more stringently, at least once annually. An ELT (Electronic Locator Transmitter) of some sort of tracking device should also be fitted as standard to all aircraft of all sizes, whether private or military.

That command and control during Search & Rescue operations be led by a suitably qualified person identified by SASAR /ARCC/MRCC (being Air Rescue command centre and Maritime Rescue command centre).

That a suitably qualified media person be appointed to give accurate information to the Press in order to eliminate hearsay and inaccurate information being released.

That the local population be utilized to the maximum and included in search teams where possible during SAR operations because of their knowledge of the area and terrain in question.

That only suitably qualified people be allowed into and to run a JOC (Joint Operational Centre) at or near to a search or disaster area as possible.

Each rescue coordination centre carry a stock of at least 5 sets 1 : 50 000 and 1 : 250 000 scale maps that fall within their area of responsibility. One set of each of the maps should be kept in the operations room and should be updated as the search progresses.

What was interesting was that a resolution was also taken that all motorized sporting activities on the sea should carry a license and use the levy paid for such a license to fund the Search & Rescue services. Costing was a major problem during all the discussions of the Convention as it affects every aspect of the time, effort and the use of various types of vehicles, aircraft etc. in Search & Rescue operations as nothing, unfortunately, is for nothing.

Also interesting was that a national Maritime Rescue telephone number be established. I have not heard that this resolution has been achieved but it will be made known as soon as the number becomes available. The same applies to the development of the SAR Website. Rudo Theron at SASAR in Pretoria informed me that the site is nearing completion.

That the use of FLIR (Forward Looking Infra Red) devices be investigated especially when searching for aircraft missing in densely forested areas.

That with regard to command and control of SAR operations, SASAR should look at the Incident Command System (ICS), used very successfully in the United States. I have no information on ICS but I will contact Ken Groom in Michigan and see if he could let us have some information on how this system operates. This is an Internet coordination site.

There were obviously many resolutions taken, 2 pages of them, that do not directly have a bearing on HAMNET activities, but this congress will in all probability take place on an annual basis. I sincerely hope that the next one is closer to home and easier to attend.

AROUND THE WORLD - EVENTS AND DISASTERS

During the month of June, various disasters played itself out around the world. The Solomon Islands, having barely recovered from the January 2003 Cyclone Zoe, was again hit by Cyclone Gina which passed 56 km west of the island of Tikopia on the 5th of June. To make matters worse, it not only destroyed replanted crops, but also destroyed emergency food supplies, delivered after the first cyclone.

On 14 June, the Philippines were hit by a tropical storm called "Soudelor" with winds up to 110 kph. This storm, apart from causing havoc to the central and surrounding areas, also displaced over 46,000 people.

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste also experienced torrential rain damage, creating the need for emergency supplies of sheets, buckets, rice, cooking pans, tarpaulins and normal humanitarian assistance.

From floods and cyclones to heat waves. India had a fair share of problems during the month of June. They had floods, earthquakes and heat waves, which affected many parts of the country. During the heat wave at the end of May early June 1563 heat related deaths were reported across the country. The heat wave also caused numerous fires that caused a loss of possessions.

Locally, winter has now finally set in and the cold weather is bringing with it rain in parts of the country and snowfalls over high ground. To date, we have not had any closures, due to snow, of main routes but please be aware that this could happen at any time.

One final point, if any data or information regarding your station should change, please don't forget to let me know. I know that Tubby ZS5TUB is currently updating the KwaZulu Natal database. This information will reach me in due course and the main database will be updated.

Many thanks to Allan Franszen, ZS1FG/6 (ZS6BIK) for cleaning up the Hamnet Manual. There are a few pages that still need to be scanned into the refurbished manual and this will be done in due course. I also need to clean up the Index pages as the sequence has been changed slightly. This will in no way affect older manual's currently in your possession.

That is all for today. Should there be items of interest from your area, please let me have the details for insertion in our monthly news bulletin.

Bulletin Ends